SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at http://www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

While the problems experienced by some members accessing the SARL web pages are being attended to, an additional channel is now available from this Sunday. To download the weekly SARL News audio recordings and to listen to, or download Amateur Radio Today, log on to www.amateurradio.org.za.

In the news today:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR SARL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED

APRIL WORD SEARCH TO HONOUR SAMUEL MORSE

and

THE REGIONAL FT4 CONTEST

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin this morning with news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Barend du Preez Briel, ZR6DUP, went silent on Friday 18 February 2022. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Ewalt H Bouwer, ZS2EHB, went silent on Saturday 12 March 2022. Ewalt was a soft-spoken, humble man, who not only read the Afrikaans SARL News for many years in the Eastern Cape but was also always keen to get involved with CQ Hou Koers, or to start the braai fire at the Club. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR SARL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED

Dominic White, of Orange Cyberdefense, will deliver the keynote address at the SARL Taking Amateur Radio into the Digital Age symposium. The keynote is entitled “Why Radio Amateurs should avoid encryption.” Orange Cyberdefense

South Africa is born from the SensePost team originally founded in Centurion 21 years ago. In February 2019, SensePost became a part of Orange Cyberdefense - Europe's leading go-to security services provider.

The symposium will take place on Saturday 9 April 2022 on the BlueJeans platform. Participation is free for members of the SARL, AMSAT SA and IARU Member Societies. To register and for more details visit www.sarl.org.za or www.amsatsa.org.za.

SOTA ACTIVATORS COMPLETE THEIR SUMMIT SWEEP IN WALES

In May 2021, father-and-son Summits on the Air (SOTA) activators Tom Read, M1EYP, and Jimmy Read, M0HGY (the SOTA Association Manager), completed activating every SOTA summit in Wales - or so they thought. Detailed surveying work later that year, however, revealed the existence of a new "Marilyn" summit in Wales - Rhinog Fach. "Marilyn" is the nickname given to British and Irish hills with a topographical prominence of 150 meters and is also the qualification criteria for a summit to be included in SOTA in the UK. The new entity was designated the SOTA reference GW/NW-078.

Simon Melhuish, G4TJC, was the first to operate from this particular Marilyn in October 2021. The Reads set out to activate the summit on 21 December 2021. The walk was a long one and included a steep final ascent, but the pair were able to complete most of the route in the short daylight hours. Jimmy made 12 contacts, all on 2 metre FM, while Tom completed 19, mainly on 20, 30, and 40 metres using CW. Jimmy and Tom Read can once again claim to have activated every SOTA summit in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey.

APRIL WORD SEARCH TO HONOUR SAMUEL MORSE

In 1836, Samuel Morse and his compatriots, Alford Vail and Joseph Henry developed morse code. On 11 January 1838, Samuel Morse and Alford Vail demonstrated the use of the electric telegraph to transmit a message in morse code for the first time. Did you know? SOS signals were often sent in morse code. While SOS had no specific translation, it was said to mean "save our souls" or "save our ship."

Morse code uses a unique series of dots and dashes, called "dii and dah", for each letter of the alphabet and the numbers 0 to 9. Long before the invention of radios and mobile phones, operators used telegraph machines to send messages in morse code. On the receiving end, the morse code is translated back into alphabetic characters and numbers to form the message. The message allowed for instant, coast-to-coast communication of information over telegraph lines.

The SAMOC April Word Search event celebrates the invention of morse code and the electric telegraph machine. This special event was established to honour Samuel Morse, who was born on 27 April 1791. For details, please see pages 52 - 54 in "The Blue Book"

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CLUB NEWS

You are invited to help Find the Fox on Saturday 26 March starting at 10:00 CAT. Sources have advised that this one will be a walk in the park, as the fox will be transmitting its cryptic code on 144,525 MHz whilst soaking up the sun and scenery somewhere at Emmarentia Dam in Greenside, Johannesburg. Sources have further advised that this park has ample parking, refreshments and bathrooms and you can even bring along your picnic basket, family and friends. This means you have absolutely no excuses, so gather your troops and handy talkie and come along to find the fox and then why not stick around or join us to spend some quality time chatting and relaxing with family, friends and your fellow radio amateurs in the park.

Keith, ZS6HI will be waiting on 145,525 MHz for you to announce your participation and hopefully, the success of your hunt. The First to Find hunter will also take home a special FTF trophy. Details are also available on the SARL website in the upcoming events diary forum.

Do you love or hate FT8? Well, there is an alternative weak signal mode that is far more engaging and interactive. Diarize now to join the Sandton ARC Power Hour Tech Talk taking place at 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 30 March to learn more about it. Further clues in next week's bulletin.

CONTEST NEWS

It is time to spread your DX wings across our borders to the regional countries and shake hands with our sub-Shahara neighbours. We do not have Europe on our doorstep, but we do have the SARL All Africa Award to achieve. The West Rand club will host the first FT4 digital contest on Saturday 9 April 2022 with the second leg on 10 September 2022. The West Rand Club plans to have a Club open day and tech talk to show FT4 in action and logging for this contest in a series of interesting talks on Saturday 26 March starting at 09:30 CAT. Everyone is welcome to join us at the clubhouse and to end the day with a bring and braai.

Twenty-four logs were received for the SARL YL Contest held on Saturday 5 March to celebrate International Women's Day.

1st Karin Andrew, ZS6MMA – 177 points

2nd Sonet de Wet, ZS3SW – 168 points

3rd Veronica Kotze, ZR6TVK – 165 points

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FOURTH SERIES OF CW CLASSES

Mike, ZS6MSW reports that he has established the new dates for the next Morse Code classes for 2022. They will run from 1 July to 29 August, starting at 19:00 CAT every Monday night on Skype as usual. If anything changes, Mike will let you know. Should you know of a candidate who may be interested,

the requirements are for those joining are to become familiar with the sounds of the characters at a minimum speed of 20 wpm, two months prior to the facilitation classes commence. The cut-off date for registration will be 1 May 2022, this will avoid people joining late and then keeping the class behind. The training programmes you will need to download are one of many, Just Learn Morse, Morse Machine and Koch Morse Trainer for Android at about R30 per download. Mike will need your e-mail address, mobile number, call sign and name to be accommodated in the next classes on Skype. Contact Mike on zs6msw@gmail.com.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently two sunspots with slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high chance of C-class and a low chance of M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 43. The 12 to 30 m bands will provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – The Autumn Equinox at 17:32 CAT

21 March – Human Rights Day and the Namibian Independence Day

23 March – The Sandton Talking Tech Power Hour

25 March – Coastal schools close

26 March – The Sandton ARC Fox hunt

26 and 27 March – The CQ WPX SSB Contest

27 March – The closing date for the VHF/UHF Analogue logs

1 April – The start of the SAMOC April Word Search

2 April – The start of Ramadan, the RaDAR Challenge and the Pretoria ARC Flea Market

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

Dominic White, of Orange Cyberdefense will deliver the keynote address at the SARL Taking Amateur Radio into the Digital Age symposium. The keynote is entitled "Why Radio Amateurs should avoid encryption." The symposium will take place on Saturday 9 April 2022 on the BlueJeans platform. To register and for more details visit www.sarl.org.za or www.amsatsa.org.za.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page.

News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proof read by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by .....

From the News Team, best wishes for the week ahead.